

Structures were selected based upon: (a) their proximity to the wildland-urban interface, and (b) exhibiting a fire hazard or safety concern such as adjacent to highly flammable sources of flammable material. Structures are defined as homes and other buildings (e.g., barns, garages, or maintenance buildings) with economic value to the landowner, or historic buildings.

## **8.0 Environmental Effects**

Environmental effects associated with wildfire to the physical, biological, and social resources include: air quality, water quality, soil erosion and displacement, sediment delivery to streams and reservoirs, cultural resources, threatened and endangered plant species, noxious weeds, fish, sensitive animal species, wildlife habitat, riparian areas, existing wetlands, Native American concerns, socioeconomic impacts such as BLM grazing allotments, subdivisions and isolated parcels, rural communities, and wilderness study areas.

An intense wildfire of short duration may have the greatest impact or alteration in soil characteristics to the landscape (Graham 2003). In Lincoln County these alterations may include: (1) loss of organic matter on soil surface, (2) reduced ground cover decreasing water infiltration and the potential for increased surface runoff, (3) the formation of pedestals, rills, and gullies, and (4) infestation of noxious or exotic weeds.

Noxious weed problems associated with Fuels Reduction projects is a legitimate concern. Upon implementation of Fuels Reduction projects associated with the 2001-2002 Community At Risk program, all noxious weed control (if necessary) was turned over to the local County Weed Control Board with funding support from the Community At Risk program. Local County Weed Control Boards possess the necessary expertise and technical equipment to mitigate noxious weed problems associated with Fuels Reduction projects.

## **9.0 Mitigation**

This section discusses fuels mitigation and needs and associated costs for Lincoln County. The environmental effects and public education program are included under one section and apply to all FPD's in Lincoln County.

## **10.0 Mitigation Summary for Lincoln County**

The following mitigation recommendations are intended to supplement Table 27., the Summary of Conditions and Recommendations for Lincoln County.

Fuels Mitigation – Hazardous fuel buildup resulting in wildland fires represents the primary risk to homeowners, businesses, and state and federal facilities located outside city limits. Fuel break locations are identified in this section based on recommendations provided by each fire chief, input from county commissioners and BLM. The size of the fuel breaks required and associated costs to construct the fuel breaks will vary, depending on the fuels present, distance, and dimensions of each fuel break. (See Budget Spreadsheet Appendix D)

The National and Idaho Fire Plan address rehabilitation and restoration of burned areas and fire-